

save Medicare for another decade. The plan slowed the rate of growth to more than 7 percent annually. Remember, the President said 2 years ago, that is not a cut. But guess what Bill Clinton has to say about essentially the same idea today?

He said, Republicans want to destroy, devastate and dismantle Medicare. He is talking about terrible cuts now. What happened to the President that was talking about slowing the rate of growth just 2 years ago? The Republican plan increases spending per senior from \$4800 to \$7100 in the year 2002. There are no cuts though the rate of spending increases are slowed slightly.

The Clinton plan would increase spending per senior to \$7200 in the year 2002. That is a 2 percent difference, or little more than \$100 a year 7 years from now. Remember, the President's Medicare proposal is not of a balanced budget, because even though he submitted four of them, none of them balance. More on that a little bit later.

Yet, Bill Clinton's accusations against the Republicans, that we are trying to destroy Medicare, the Nation's top elected official is telling these fictitious stories to the American people. Our President, our leader, the one on whom we depend to lead us through times of crisis and through times of need, is not coming forth and telling the American people what he was saying just 2 years ago, that we are not going to devastate Medicare. We are not cutting Medicare. We are slowing the rate of growth. He and Mrs. Clinton said 2 years ago, do not let them tell you that we are cutting.

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Well, do not let them tell you today that we are cutting Medicare.

Let us talk about Medicare part A premiums. Seniors now pay \$47 a month for part A premiums, and Bill Clinton and liberal Democrats have blasted Republicans and said they are doubling Medicare premiums. First of all, as every senior knows, Medicare part A premiums rise about almost every year. Even Bill Clinton and liberal Democrats know this. The Republican plan would see premiums rise from \$47 to \$87 a month in the year 2002. That is an increase, though it is not a doubling of the premium.

But here is the punch line: The President's plan would cost only \$4 less per month than what we are proposing.

Bill Clinton says Republicans want to destroy Medicare, but the premiums in this plan are \$83 instead of \$87. That is 13 cents a day difference.

It gets worse. Most of this year we have heard Bill Clinton and other liberals accuse Republicans of trying to force seniors into managed care plans—even though every senior could remain in the current plan just as it is. They have also blasted our innovative proposals like medical savings accounts. Now, Bill Clinton has “borrowed” every good idea Republicans wanted to use to help save Medicare in his plan.

A few weeks ago, the Washington Post, no friend of conservatives, had this to say: “The Democrats, led by the President, have shamelessly used this issue, demagogued on it because they think that's where the votes are.”

Mr. President, remember 1992, 1993. There are no cuts.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. SMITH] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. MICA] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. MICA addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

LET'S BALANCE THE BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. GOODLATTE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, the President has now had four tries at sending the Congress a balanced budget, and he still has not gotten close to honoring the commitment he made to the American people and the law he signed 29 days ago agreeing to a balanced budget in 7 years using real numbers, not smoke and mirrors. President Clinton's latest budget keeps piling on the debt, an estimated \$265 billion in the red.

Mr. Speaker, we voted on that budget here in the House today, and Democrats and Republicans alike combined to reject it 412 to zero. That is right, not a single Member of the House in either party voted for the President's latest budget.

Yesterday we had a similar bipartisan vote in favor of a 7-year balanced budget using realistic assumptions about economic growth.

While the President cannot send us a budget that actually balances, he can stand over at the White House and scare our seniors, scare our families, scare our veterans with dire rhetoric and self-serving political posturing that lacks one essential element, the truth. He and his allies have spent an estimated \$30 million attempting to mislead the American people about Medicare, Medicaid, education, and the Earned Income Tax Credit.

So let us look at the facts. He says Republicans are devastating Medicare, destroying Medicare. Here are the facts:

In this current year we are spending per senior citizen \$4,816 on Medicare; in the year 2002, \$7,101 per senior citizen on Medicare. Where is the cut? I would suggest to my colleagues that only in

Washington, DC, can a \$2,300 increase in spending on Medicare be called a cut. Only in Washington, DC, and on negative misleading ads such as the one the United Mine Workers are running in my district on the radio this week, absolutely false, totally intended to try and scare senior citizens, and for what? Purely political demagoguery and nothing else.

Medicaid. We are increasing the amount of money spent on Medicaid by nearly 50 percent over the next 7 years.

Education. The chairman of the committee is going to speak on this at great length, but let us take a look at just one example, a very important part of education, student loans. Cuts to student loans they say. Well, here in 1995 the total amount of money made available for student loans this year is \$24.5 billion. In the year 2002 under our budget that has been sitting on the table waiting for a budget from the President to negotiate over we increase it to \$36.4 billion over the next 7 years, more than, or nearly, a 50-percent increase in student loans, and yet the President would have the students of this country and their parents scared with the idea that we are trying to cut education. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The Earned Income Tax Credit. The President says we are being unfair to hard-working, low-income families in this country, yet we are increasing the amount of money that is spent, that the amount of tax credits that are available for the Earned Income Tax Credit for low-income families by \$5 billion in the 7th year of our budget, increasing again, and overall in the last 7 years we spent \$9½ trillion. That is the total amount of money the Government spent; in the next 7 years with our budget, \$12 trillion, a \$2½ trillion increase, and yet the President wants to spend more, originally proposing to spend nearly \$1 trillion more, still wanting to spend \$300 billion more than what is necessary, more than what it takes to balance the budget in 7 years, and we cannot balance the budget using his smoke and mirrors.

Mr. Speaker, the President has got his seasons mixed up. It is Christmas, not Halloween, so maybe he should put away the senior scare tactics and bogie-man budgets and join the Congress in actually helping our Nation by balancing the budget.

Today each and every Member of Congress had a crystal-clear decision. Members could vote for President Clinton's fourth budget, and with their vote they would say to their folks back home, “I agree with President Clinton; we simply don't want to balance the budget. So let's not even try. Let's just keep piling on the debt that our children and grandchildren will be stuck with, and we'll keep playing the tried and true Washington political game of saying one thing and doing another, saying we want a balanced budget, but voting to keep up the outrageous spendathon.”

Mr. Speaker, clearly that was rejected by the Members of this Congress today. Members today who voted no voted no and said, "President Clinton, it is really time to finally balance the budget. The American people are waiting and watching."

No more Washington, D.C. gimmicks. No more political games. No more divisive grandstanding. Let's do the right thing. Let's balance the budget. Let's put our government back to work.

The vote was unanimous. Republicans and Democrats voted "no" and sent a bipartisan message to President Clinton that we are moving forward to balance the budget and it's about time that he joined us.

The American people are waiting and watching.

STRENGTHENING, PRESERVING, AND PROTECTING MEDICARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. KINGSTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to continue this dialog and discussion that we are having which the American people on Medicare, and I need to first begin with the 1995 April 3 trustees' report which said at the present financing schedule the Medicare Program is sufficient to insure the payment of benefits for only 7 years. It will be out of money in—it will be bankrupt in 7 years.

Mr. Speaker, that is why the Republican Congress has taken the steps to preserve, protect, and strengthen Medicare.

Now we are going this by ourselves. The Democrat Party, the President, has done absolutely nothing in this process to strengthen, preserve, and protect Medicare, but they are doing all kinds of things to scare the American people, saying, "Cut, cut, Cut."

Mr. Speaker, in response to that the chairman of the Republican National Committee, Haley Barbour, put out this ad and challenge to the Democrats. It said, "If you can prove that we are cutting Medicare, come get a check for \$1 million."

Now what I would think with over 200 Democrats in the House, that they would have been lining up because all we have heard, Mr. Speaker, for 6 months is Republicans are cutting Medicare, and yet somehow, when there is a million dollars in it, suddenly there is silence, and I have never known Democrats to be overwhelmingly statesmanlike, so I assume, when it comes time to put money where their mouth is, that they are not interested in really participating because, Mr. Speaker, they know that the truth is that Medicare spending is going from \$5,816 per person to \$7,100, and with that kind of truth, then they do not want to come get their million-dollar check.

Now the gentleman from Pennsylvania who has just helped keep these charts on the floor has also studied

this very carefully with me. I know he is on top of Medicare, but also on the budget as well.

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Congressman KINGSTON, I appreciate the opportunity for you to yield to me. The fact is that Medicare spending under the Republican proposal will go from \$4,800 a year to at least \$7,100 a year. This big increase is going to make sure that Medicare is going to be there for all seniors. The fact is the proposal also does some other important things. The American public should also know, and our colleagues, that we are going to reduce the cost of paperwork involved with Medicare from 12 percent to like 3 percent or less with electronic billing. We also, the medical education, the indirect and direct costs, instead of being part of Medicare will have its own separate item so that those funds will again go to seniors' health care. I think it is also important to note the options they have, the Medisave accounts and the managed care. All will make sure that Medicare goes up double the rate of inflation.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman is correct. Medicare is essentially 1964 Blue Cross plan, and I would not want my mama to be driving around in a 1964 Ford Falcon. I want her to have all the technology, and those options that you are talking about, she wants traditional Medicare, she can have it, but if she wants all the other options, she can.

Now you know what is interesting is that we had to have a trustees' report on Medicare to tell us it is going bankrupt. As Members of Congress, we should have known that already, but there is one thing that we do not need the trustees' report on, and that is the fact that the U.S. Government is going bankrupt.

We have a debt right now of \$4.9 trillion which we are passing on to our children today, just because the Democrats and many others in Washington are acting like, well, this does not affect me. In some of the major newspapers in the country; I think the Wall Street Journal, the Washington Post, Washington Times, maybe the L.A. Times; the CEO's of many of the Fortune 500 companies in America took out an ad urging Congress, urging the President, to balance the budget within 7 years.

Now a lot of the colleagues on the other side of the aisle have been bad mouthing these people. Let me tell you who they are bad mouthing. I heard one of the speakers earlier tonight say how horrible these folks were. We are talking IBM, Ford Motor Co., Circuit City, Toys "R" Us, and, as I sat here and listened to what we used to call parlor pinks—parlor pinks, as you know, were Socialists. They are not quite Communists, but they do not like—they are collectivists. They do not like people making a profit—bad mouth all these companies, and these are companies that have products in every one of our households around

America, but, more importantly than that, the jobs.

Where do these parlor pinks think jobs come from if not employers?

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. If the gentleman would yield, I appreciate, Congressman KINGSTON, your bringing this topic forward because frankly most Americans want to see a balanced budget, a balanced budget, and these companies, and their executives, and their employees all agree that we balance the budget, we are going to be able to reduce the costs of car payments, mortgage costs, college expenses, health care costs. We have been spending almost the same size as the Defense Department just on our Nation's debt, and 25 years or 26 years of overspending have gotten us \$4.9 trillion in debt.

Mr. KINGSTON. Well, have you ever thought about this, Mr. FOX? What if the children could vote? All we hear from here is oh, the children, the children. What if those children who are going to be paying \$150,000 in interest on the national debt over a 75-year period of time on top of their Federal, on top of their State, on top of their local taxes, what if those 5 year olds that we are so, that they are allegedly so concerned now about out there on the playground, what if they could vote?

□ 1930

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Obviously, they would also want a balanced budget.

Mr. KINGSTON. Obviously they would say, wait a minute, mom and dad. You mean to say all of that stuff that you are charging, I have to pay for? Maybe we do not need all of those Federal spending programs after all. Maybe all those bureaucrats in Washington should go home.

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. If the gentleman will continue to yield, the fact is that the vote today was very historic. The Clinton budget, which would give us nothing but more deficit, more spending, more tax increases, which would create less jobs, was in fact defeated 412 to zero. Republicans and Democrats together said that was not the answer.

ZERO VOTES ON PRESIDENT CLINTON'S BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DICKY). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. FOX] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I would ask the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. KINGSTON] to join me in this special order.

Mr. KINGSTON. Let me start out by asking a question, Mr. Speaker. I am not sure what the gentleman said. The President had a balanced budget plan, is that correct?

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Yes.

Mr. KINGSTON. He introduced it in Congress?